

Table 4.0-1. Assumptions for MSA Impact Analysis.

<b>Assumptions for MSA Impact Analysis</b>	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Impacts identified in this MSA analysis are limited to those that are currently occurring and would continue to result under the current management direction</li> <li>◆ The BLM would comply with applicable laws, regulations, and policies in implementation of continued management direction</li> <li>◆ Adequate funding and staff available would be available for implementation of planning objectives and actions</li> <li>◆ The Standards for Healthy Rangelands would continue to direct the on-the-ground management of BLM lands, especially with respect to watershed functions, riparian areas, water quality and sustainability of viable populations and diversity of native plant and animal species</li> </ul>
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Current sources of air emissions would increase proportionally with growth in oil/natural gas development, increased use of roads, and increased visitation to RMPPA</li> <li>◆ No air quality modeling has been conducted for this MSA analysis; modeling will be done for EIS impact analysis</li> </ul>
Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ When avoidance would be detrimental to other resource values and management direction, mitigation of impacts cultural resources would be performed in proportion to their significance</li> <li>◆ Cultural resources would continue to be found throughout the RMPPA</li> <li>◆ Cultural resource protection would occur in accordance with SHPO coordination requirements and other Federal regulations</li> </ul>
Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Wildfire extent from such sources as lightning and human-caused sources would continue</li> <li>◆ Prescribed fires would occur at recent or slightly increased rates</li> <li>◆ Mechanical manipulation of vegetation to control fuels would be used where more beneficial and practical than prescribed burns</li> <li>◆ Fire planning would be in compliance with the National Fire Plan</li> </ul>
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Current forest health trends would continue</li> <li>◆ Forest harvest would remain at current levels</li> <li>◆ Forests would continue to support a number of other resources, such as recreation, visual resources, and wildlife</li> </ul>
Hazardous Materials and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Potential hazardous material or waste spills, use, and safety concerns would increase with growth in oil and natural gas development</li> <li>◆ No substantial new hazardous material uses and/or waste generation would occur within the RMPPA</li> </ul>
Lands and Realty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Land transfers would generally continue at current rates and occur where new opportunities to reach land management objectives arise</li> <li>◆ Numbers of rights-of-way, permits, and leases would increase over a 20-year period, primarily due to increased oil and natural gas development</li> <li>◆ New locations of rights-of-way corridors would be identified, but use of existing corridors would be emphasized where practicable</li> </ul>
Livestock Grazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Range improvements would continue to occur at current rates to reach rangeland improvement goals</li> <li>◆ Livestock would be managed to balance impacts and competition with wildlife</li> <li>◆ Prescribed burns would continue to occur at current rates, and burn areas would be rested from livestock grazing for the first two growing seasons following prescribed burns</li> </ul>

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Minerals and Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Leasing for access to oil and natural gas resources would continue according to current trends</li> <li>◆ The RMPPA would continue to have a high potential for oil and natural gas development, as identified in the Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report and the Reasonable Foreseeable Development analysis conducted by the BLM</li> <li>◆ High and moderate potential natural gas development areas could have densities as high as 16 wells per square mile; low natural gas development areas could have densities of less than one well per square mile</li> <li>◆ Through 2020, projections from the Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report and the Reasonably Foreseeable Development analysis conducted by the BLM call for almost 14,300 new wells to be drilled in the RMPPA with an estimated 20,600 acres of surface disturbance associated with these wells</li> <li>◆ There are seven coal areas classified as having development potential, but of these, the Carbon Basin tract (with a project area of 18,360 acres) is viewed as having the most probable development potential through 2020</li> <li>◆ The goal of increased domestic mineral development would continue to increase in importance because of national security concerns and increasing energy demand</li> <li>◆ Infrastructure and support facilities such as processing facilities and pipelines would continue to be developed to support increased oil and gas development</li> </ul>
OHV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ OHV use would continue to show increases</li> <li>◆ OHV use would be managed to avoid/mitigate potential conflicts with other resource uses</li> </ul>
Paleontological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ When avoidance would be detrimental to other resource values and management direction, mitigation methods to paleontological resources would be considered</li> <li>◆ Significant fossils may be expected to be found within the RMPPA</li> </ul>
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Recreation use would continue to grow for all major recreation types</li> <li>◆ While some new developed recreation sites may be established, the recreation focus within the RMPPA would be a continuation of dispersed recreational activities</li> </ul>
Socioeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Employment and income would continue to be a driver of economic and population growth in the socioeconomic study area</li> <li>◆ Economic benefits to the study area would accrue from BLM-influenced activities such as oil and gas development, livestock grazing, and recreation</li> </ul>
Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Soil erosion would continue to be a major source of concern within the RMPPA</li> <li>◆ Management actions would adjust to the wet/dry cycles associated with climate patterns</li> <li>◆ Maintenance of soils quality and quantity would be driven by Wyoming surface disturbing activities guidance and healthy rangeland standards</li> </ul>
Transportation and Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Additional roads would be developed as needed to support expanded oil and gas operations in compliance with the multiple use concepts within FLPMA</li> <li>◆ Development of other new roads would be minimal</li> <li>◆ Use of roads would increase, based on anticipated increases in oil and gas activity and recreational use</li> <li>◆ Unauthorized roads may be closed and reclaimed</li> </ul>
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Vegetation trends involving vegetative health, use as wildlife habitat, displacement by noxious weeds, and changes in plant community locations would continue</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Adequate forage is available if wildlife numbers remain relatively static however management actions would adjust to wet/dry cycles associated with climate patterns</li> </ul>
Visual Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Visual resource management designations would be incorporated into all project planning</li> <li>◆ Current visual resource designations would not change, except those pertaining to WSA's which would be treated as VRM Class I.</li> </ul>
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The types of developments that could affect water quality within the RMPPA would remain essentially the same as current</li> </ul>
Wild Horses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Horses would be managed at AML (appropriate management level)</li> </ul>
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Existing trends on wildlife health and numbers would continue, with no major changes in wildlife types, locations, and movement patterns</li> <li>◆ Wildlife populations would continue to be managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department</li> <li>◆ BLM would continue to manage wildlife habitat</li> <li>◆ Wildlife support developments (e.g., wells, guzzlers, fences, etc.) would continue to be developed at current rates</li> <li>◆ Big game habitat would be managed in coordination with Wyoming Game and Fish herd objectives</li> </ul>
Special Management Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Management of specially designated areas such as ACECs, SRMAs, WSAs, and WSRs would generally be the same as current management, including interim management policies for WSAs</li> </ul>